

lock umbels in the brackish marshes near Higham in 1951, and not far away a male of the equally large and very local *Odontomyia ornata* Mg. By sweeping dikeside herbage nearer the village of Higham, Mr. Shephard took a ♂ *S. longicornis* (det. BMNH) in 1966 or 7, and on 26.vi.66 a ♂ *O. tigrina* F. at the same spot; of the last-named, I swept a ♀ from reeds by a marsh dike at Lewes, Sussex, 15.vi. 74. Finally I may mention a ♀ *S. furcata* brought to me by Mr. D. Collins from the sea wall at Leigh, Essex, in July 1964. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

WINTER AND EARLY SPRING MOTHS IN JANUARY. — An extremely mild spell of weather during the last week in January this year, prompted me to visit a private wood near Ashford, Kent on the 24th of the month. I operated two M.V. lights, and by 7.30 p.m. approximately 300 *Apocheima pilosaria* D. & S. and 70 *Agriopis leucophaearia* D. & S. had arrived, along with half a dozen *Erannis defoliaria* Clerck. An extremely early example of *A. marginaria* Fab. also came to the sheet, but none were found at rest along the adjacent hedges, where they are fairly plentiful later in the year. Both *Theria rupicapraria* D. & S. and *Operophtera brumata* L. were sitting about on the roadside hedges.

Another similar dry warm evening three nights later found *pilosaria* again abundant, with over a hundred *leucophaearia* in many variable forms. Several specimens of *Alsophila aescularia* D. & S. also appeared, and two examples of the late autumn noctuid *Eupsilia transversa* Hufn. made a pleasant surprise, obviously tempted out of hibernation by the remarkably mild conditions. However no *Conistra vaccinii* L. were seen, which is usually to be noticed on the wing in February. In stark contrast, the night of the 29th saw clear cold skies, and only two *leucophaearia* managed to struggle onto the sheet with no other moths of any species to be seen. — J. PLATTS, 11 Maydowns Road, Whitstable, Kent.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE EGG-LAYING HABITS OF GORTYNA BORELII LUNATA FREYER IN THE WILD. — I made several visits to a locality for this species on the Essex coast during October 1980, and found a female ovipositing on a dead grass stem, about eighteen inches above ground. Some eggs were tucked inside the outer sheathing, but most were laid on the outside of the stem. About a dozen were laid in a batch, but proved infertile a day or two later. A few nights later another female was found at rest low down on a dead grass stem, apparently in preference to the higher plants of its food plant the Sea Hog's Fennel, although a male was found amongst the old flower heads. No eggs were present, but at home many were laid over the next few nights, all on dead grass stems. Various other stems were left in the cage including *Peucedanum officinale*, but no eggs were deposited on these. Some hundred eggs were laid, most of which turned pink several days later. — J. PLATTS, 11 Maydowns Road, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent.